

MILLBURN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR 2023



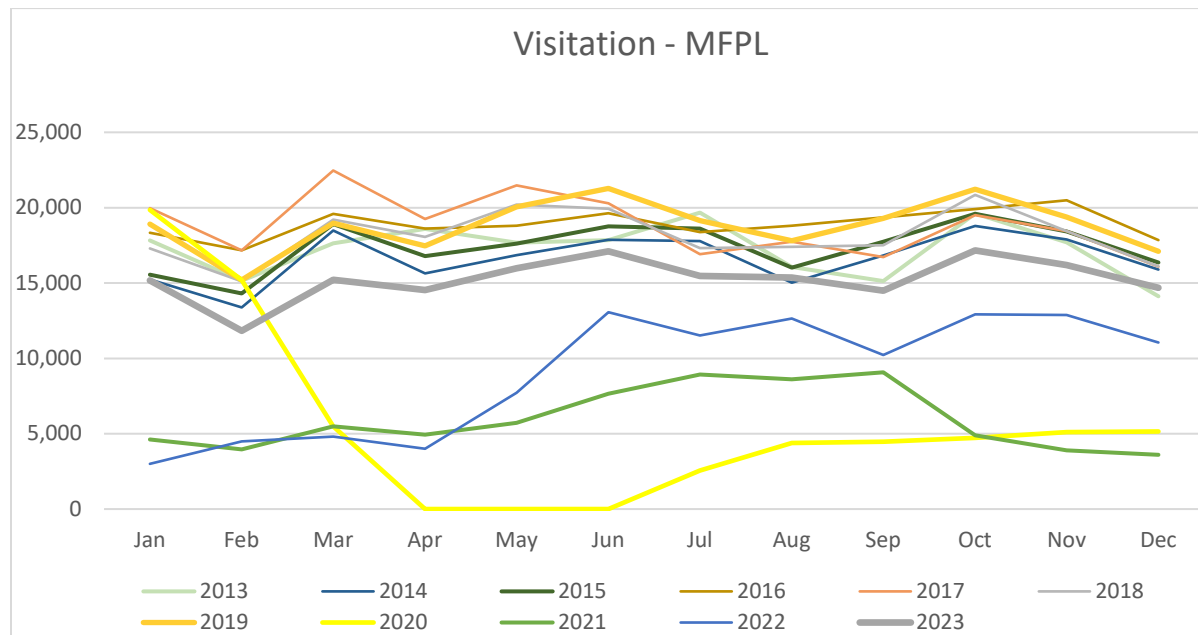
Millburn Free Public Library
200 Glen Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041
www.millburnlibrary.org

The Millburn Free Public Library tracks data throughout the year to measure performance. The data are used to make operational decisions and to gauge library use and trends.

Visitation

Visitation is returning to pre-pandemic levels. In 2023 there were 183,214 recorded visits to the library. This is an increase of 69.1% over the previous year.

The library tracks visitation through counting devices installed at the library entrances. At this point, we are only slightly behind visitation for year 2014. Of note: the library’s average attendance for all years from 2013 – 2023 was 176,489, so visitation for 2023 was above average. Moreover, trends in visitation for 2023 closely follow the patterns of all pre-pandemic years, further suggesting a return to normal.

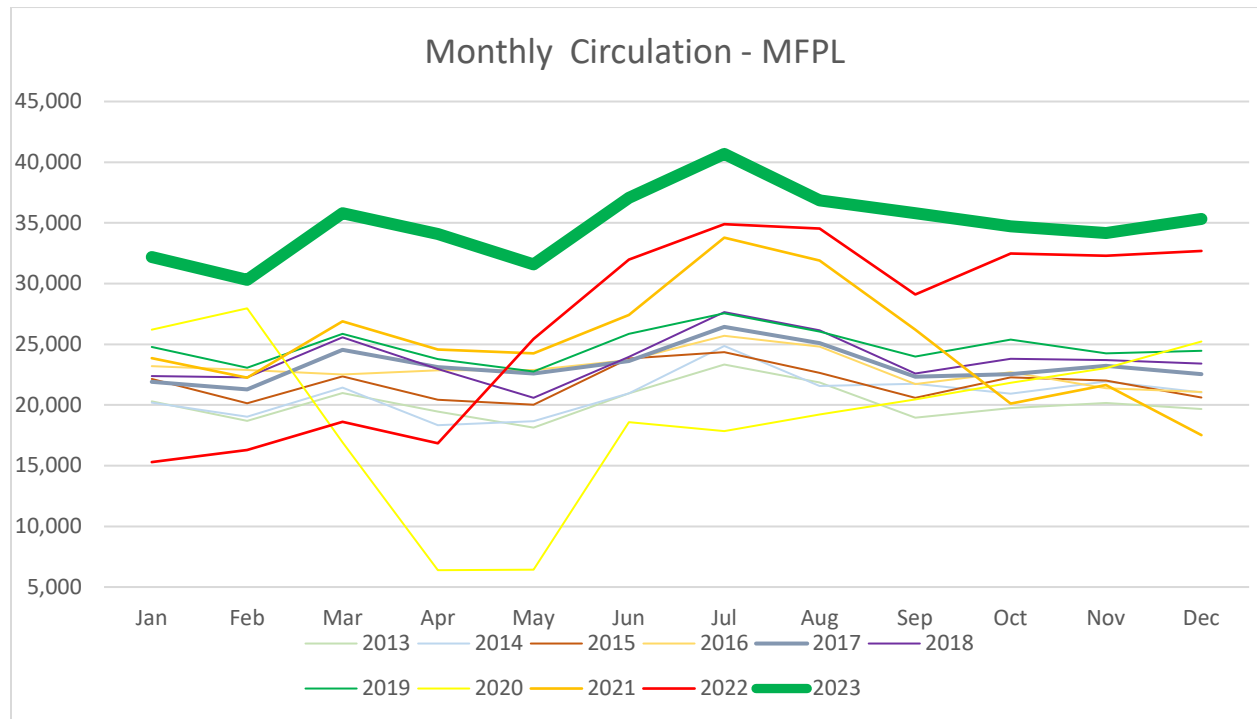


Year	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Visitation	226,913	226,005	217,416	225,823	66,935	71,421	108,323	183,214

Circulation

Circulation is the count of all items that the library lends out. It includes books, magazines, e-books, audio books, DVDs, museum passes, and any other items that are available for borrowing, including museum passes and objects from our growing “library of things.” The library of things includes a microscope, bocce and pickleball, a telescope, power tools, a blood pressure cuff, and 18 other things.

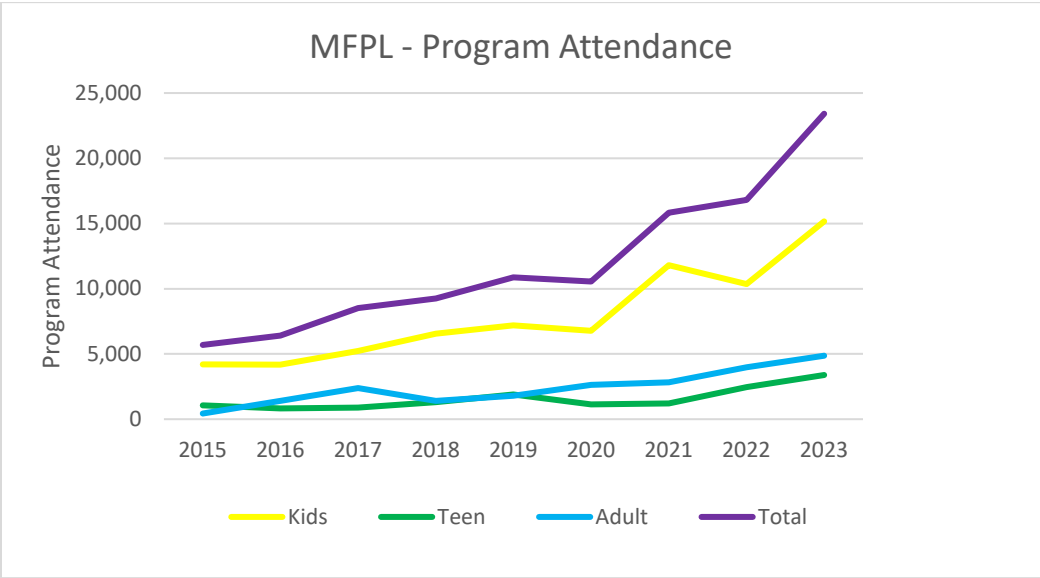
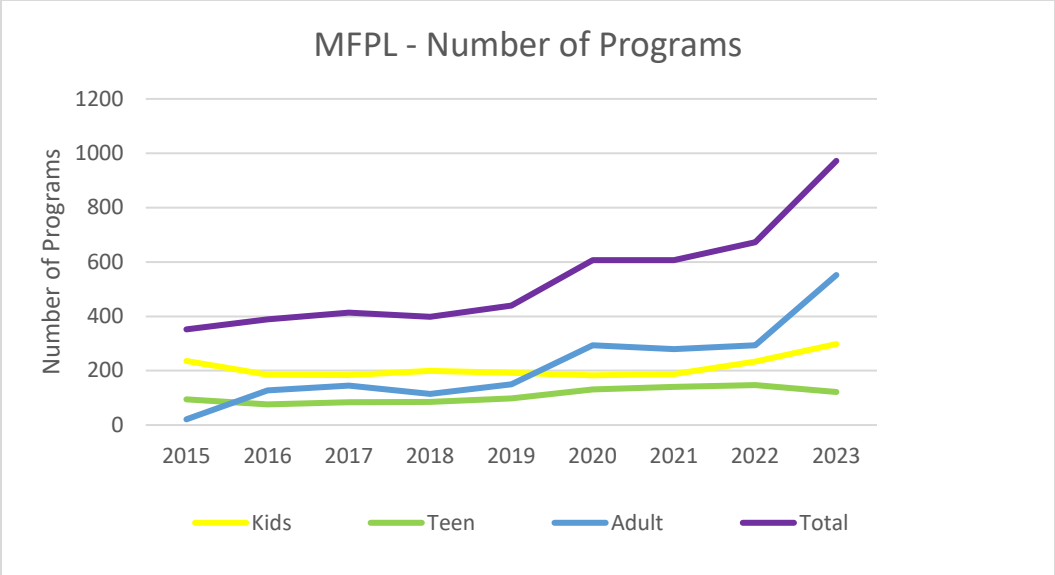
2023 was the MFPL’s best year ever for circulation. For the year, 418,549 item checkouts were recorded. This is the first time the library ever exceeded the 400,000 mark. This is particularly remarkable because only two years ago the library crossed the 300k mark for the first time. Our one-year growth was 30% and our two-year growth was nearly 40%. The MFPL is now in the very rare realm of 20 circs per capita, making the Millburn Library one of the best used libraries in New Jersey. The MFPL was also the #5 library in all of BCCLS and the MFPL’s Children’s Room ranked #1 in the consortium for most checkouts.



Year	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Circ	275,405	279,250	285,032	297,792	230,065	300,375	320,445	418,549

Programming

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AUDIENCE</u>	<u># PROGRAMS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>Attend. per Progr.</u>
2015	Kids	236	4,198	18
	Teen	95	1060	11
	Adult	21	434	21
	Total	352	5,692	16
2016	Kids	185	4,180	23
	Teen	76	825	11
	Adult	128	1,401	11
	Total	389	6,406	16
2017	Kids	184	5,234	28
	Teen	84	896	11
	Adult	145	2,396	17
	Total	413	8,526	21
2018	Kids	199	6,566	33
	Teen	85	1,296	15
	Adult	114	1,400	12
	Total	398	9,262	23
2019	Kids	192	7,188	37
	Teen	98	1,891	19
	Adult	150	1,784	12
	Total	440	10,863	25
2020	Kids	183	6,783	37
	Teen	131	1,136	8
	Adult	293	2,636	9
	Total	607	10,555	17
2021	Kids	188	11,802	63
	Teen	140	1,199	9
	Adult	279	2,831	10
	Total	607	15,832	26
2022	Kids	233	10,348	44
	Teen	147	2,470	17
	Adult	293	3,982	14
	Total	673	16,800	25
2023	Kids	298	15,163	51
	Teen	122	3,386	28
	Adult	552	4,865	9
	Total	972	23,414	24



The Millburn Library offered the most programming ever in year 2023, continuing a decade-long pattern of growth. Notice that the number of adult programs alone in 2023 is greater than the total number of programs for all age groups offered in 2019.

In 2023, the library held 972 programs with 23,414 participants. This is a 44% increase in the number of programs and a 39% increase in participation.

The previous record, which was set in 2022, was 673 programs with 16,800 attendees.

A good portion of this increase is attributed to the library's flourishing English Language Learning program, which debuted in 2022 (see more below).

Strategic Plan

In early 2023, the library hosted four community focus groups and ran a month-long community survey to get feedback about the library. That information was distilled into the library's new 4-year strategic plan covering the years 2023-2026. The goals of the plan are: 1) Refresh the 2nd floor and exterior of the facility; 2) Improve marketing; 3) Enhance user experiences; 4) Improve multicultural programming; and 5) Cultivate a network of "Library Champions." The strategic plan is on the library website and available in-print at the library.

Major Gift

In 2022, the Millburn Library learned that it was a beneficiary in Stetson Mead Baker's will, a lifelong resident of Short Hills. In January 2023, the library received \$2,088,607.91 from the estate. The residual is expected to be paid in early 2024. Funds are on deposit and will be used to cover capital projects as well as fund long-range library services.

For more information on planned giving, please speak with the library director.

It should be noted that gifts, donations, bequests, and grants are exempt from the Return of Funds Law (N.J.S.A. 40:54-15).

Capital Improvements

The library is now planning a renovation of the 2nd floor meeting rooms, restrooms, hallways and administrative offices. The layout and functions will be primarily the same, but with 21st century improvements, such as more efficient lighting, increased electrical capacity, and aesthetic changes that will harmonize with the renovations completed on the first floor in 2021-2022.

Collection Development

The Millburn Library's physical collection of books, DVDs and other materials now stands at 77,032 items. In 2023, the library added just over 7,300 new titles to its holdings, including 6,800 books and 480 DVDs and audiobooks. The library also added hundreds of e-book titles in addition to the hundreds of thousands of items already available through our electronic and streaming services. Of special note, the MFPL now has a "Library of Things" that includes a telescope, ukuleles, 3-D doodle pens, Amazon Fire tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, bocce, and more.

English Language Learning

The Millburn Library restructured staff in 2022 and allocated one part-time librarian position to ELL activities. The library now boasts one of the premier English Language Learning programs in the area,

has an excellent collection of world language materials, subscribes to ESL materials including easy English periodicals, offers citizenship programs, and hosts conversation groups for people at all levels of English language acquisition. Of special note: the most popular language learned in our Mango Languages subscription is now English.

Board of Trustees of the Millburn Library 12/31/2023:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office *</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Ruthie Binder	President	12/31/2026
Sara Sherman	VP	12/31/2028
Judith Eisner	Treasurer	12/31/2024
Dorothy Kelly	Trustee	12/31/2027
Lisa Chenfosky Singer	Trustee	12/31/2025
Michael Cohen	TC Rep	statutory
Vacant * *	School's Alt	statutory

* The office of secretary is currently being filled *pro tempore* by the library director, in accordance with by-laws.

* * The School's Alt seat will be filled by Lisa Panarelli effective 2/26/2024.

Michael D. Banick, MLS, MBA
Library Director